

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS AND KYPRIANOU REAFFIRM IDENTITY OF VIEWS,
SUPPORT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

REF: (A) ATHENS 1390 (B) 77 ATHENS 8935

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1. FOLLOWING A TWO HOUR MEETING FEBRUARY 15, GREEK PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS AND CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRMED
THEIR IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE CYPRUS QUESTION.
SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING CARAMANLIS SAID THEY HAD
AGREED THAT THE CYPRUS QUESTION SHOULD BE SOLVED THROUGH THE
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HE
POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE RESUMPTION AND FATE OF THE DIA-

LOGUE WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONTENTS OF THE TURKISH PROPOSALS. LET US HOPE, HE SAID, THAT THEY WILL BE REASONABLE.

2. CARAMANLIS UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR PERSISTENCE, PATIENCE, REALISM, AND ESPECIALLY UNITY BETWEEN GREEKS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS SINCE THE CYPRUS QUESTION "IS NOW ENTERING ITS MOST CRUCIAL PHASE." THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER ALSO WARNED THAT PERSONAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE SET ASIDE. IN HIS REMARKS, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SAID HE AND CARAMANLIS HAD AGREED ON A COMMON LINE THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE BASED ON THE COMMON POLICY FOLLOWED IN THE PAST. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD INVITED CARAMANLIS TO VISIT NICOSIA AND THAT CARAMANLIS HAD ACCEPTED, WHICH WILL MAKE HIM THE FIRST GREEK PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT CYPRUS.

3. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, CARAMANLIS TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BECOME ACQUAINTED AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. "WE ARE NOT GOING TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO EXISTING PROBLEMS AND EVEN LESS SO TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM," HE SAID. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD BE TO CREATE A "SUITABLE CLIMATE WHICH MIGHT FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF MUTUAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES," HE ADDED. KYPRIANOU COMMENTED THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE CARAMANLIS-ECEVIT MEETING, CYPRUS WOULD NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS.

4. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ECEVIT HAD SOUGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUMMIT MEETING IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, CARAMANLIS STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS INTENT SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE TURKISH LEADER. THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS HAS LINKED THE EMBARGO TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION, HE CONTINUED, "AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR MEETING WILL INFLUENCE THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS."

5. CARAMANLIS WAS ALSO ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON GREECE AND TURKEY PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT THE CONTENTS OF THESE REPORTS WERE "RATHER NAIVE."

6. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO CYPRUS ON SATURDAY. HE IS DELIVERING A SPEECH ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM TOMORROW. YESTERDAY HE MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF AND JOHN ZIGDIS, INTERIM LEADER OF THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY.

7. COMMENT: NO SUBSTANTIVE SURPRISES WERE REVEALED IN THIS LATEST CARAMANLIS-KYPRIANOU MEETING NOR WAS THERE ANY CHANGE IN THE PUBLIC LINE ADOPTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE CYPRUS QUESTION (REF B). THE

EMPHASIS CONTINUES TO BE ON THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS THE MEANS OF SEEKING A SETTLEMENT, WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SUPPORTIVE OF THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WHICH RETAINS THE INITIATIVE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT KYPRIANOU HAS MADE NO REFERENCE, DURING HIS VISIT HERE, TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DEAL WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AGREEING INSTEAD THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ARE THE PROPER VEHICLE.

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